

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An additive dispensing system for a washing machine, the washing machine including a tub for holding wash liquid and a basket for holding articles to be washed, and defining an annular space between the tub and the basket, said additive dispensing system comprising:

a top cover;

a reservoir removably coupled to said top cover, and configured to contain an additive;

a water valve coupled to said reservoir;

a conduit coupled to said reservoir and extending into the annular space, said conduit providing fluid communication between said reservoir and the annular space, and configured to deliver a diluted additive into the annular space; and

a controller coupled to said water valve, said controller configured to:

control said water valve to introduce water into said reservoir to dilute the additive;

automatically adjust a dispense time to dispense the diluted additive corresponding to at least one of a selected wash cycle of a plurality of wash cycles and a user adjustment made during the selected wash cycle; and

dispense the diluted additive to the washing machine at the adjusted dispense time by delivering the diluted additive into the annular space through said conduit.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said conduit comprises a siphon tube.

4. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said reservoir includes a removable cover coupled to said top cover, and said conduit comprises a siphon tube coupled to said removable cover.

5. (original) An additive dispensing system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said reservoir includes an overflow port.

6. (original) An additive dispensing system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said top cover includes an opening therethrough, said opening in fluid communication with said reservoir for introducing the additive into said reservoir.

7. (currently amended) A washing machine comprising:

a tub for holding wash liquid;

a basket for holding articles to be washed, an annular space defined between said tub and said basket; and

an additive dispensing system comprising:

a top cover;

a reservoir removably coupled to said top cover, and configured to contain an additive;

a water valve coupled to said reservoir;

a conduit coupled to said reservoir and extending into said annular space, said conduit providing fluid communication between said reservoir and said annular space, and configured to deliver a diluted additive into said annular space; and

a controller coupled to said water valve, said controller configured to:

control said water valve to introduce water into said reservoir to dilute the additive;

automatically adjust a dispense time to dispense the diluted additive corresponding to at least one of a selected wash cycle of a plurality of wash cycles and a user adjustment made during the selected wash cycle; and

dispense the diluted additive to the washing machine at the adjusted dispense time by delivering the diluted additive into said annular space through said conduit.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 7, wherein said conduit comprises a siphon tube.

10. (previously presented) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 7, wherein said reservoir includes a removable cover coupled to said top cover, and said conduit comprises a siphon tube coupled to said removable cover.

11. (original) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 7, wherein said reservoir includes an overflow port.

12. (original) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 7, wherein said top cover includes an opening therethrough, said opening in fluid communication with said reservoir for introducing the additive into said reservoir.

13. (withdrawn) A method for dispensing an additive from a reservoir in a washing machine, the washing machine including a tub, a basket, a memory, and a controller accessing the memory and controlling a water valve, said method comprising:

determining a total wash cycle time;

determining an additive dispense time based on the total wash cycle time;

activating a water valve to dilute the additive when the additive dispense time is reached; and

dispensing the diluted additive.

14. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein determining a total wash cycle time comprises retrieving a total wash cycle time from memory based on a selected wash cycle.

15. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 14, wherein retrieving a total wash cycle time comprises retrieving a total wash cycle time from a look-up table in the memory.

16. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein determining a total wash cycle time comprises accepting a user specified wash time.

17. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein determining an additive dispense time comprises setting the additive dispense time at a set percentage of the total wash cycle time.

18. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the additive dispense time is set at an elapsed time of about 2/3 of the total wash cycle time.

19. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein activating a water valve to dilute the additive further comprises raising the level of the diluted additive in the reservoir to start a siphoning action.

20. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein dispensing the diluted additive comprises dispensing the diluted additive when the basket is stationary.

21. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein dispensing the diluted additive comprises introducing the diluted additive into an annulus between the tub and the basket.

22. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein determining the total wash cycle time further comprises saving the determined total wash cycle time in memory.

23. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 22, wherein a new total wash cycle is saved when the user changes the wash cycle.

24. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 23, wherein a new additive dispense time is determined when a new total wash cycle time is saved.

25. (currently amended) An additive dispensing system for a washing machine, the washing machine including a tub for holding wash liquid and a basket for holding articles to be washed, and defining an annular space between the tub and the basket, said additive dispensing system comprising:

a reservoir cover comprising a plurality of tabs extending from said reservoir cover, said plurality of tabs engaging a top cover of the washing machine;

a reservoir removably coupled to said reservoir cover, and configured to contain an additive;

a water valve coupled to said reservoir; and

a controller coupled to said water valve, said controller configured to:

control said water valve to introduce water into said reservoir to dilute the additive;

automatically adjust a dispense time to dispense the diluted additive corresponding to at least one of a selected wash cycle of a plurality of wash cycles and a user adjustment made during the selected wash cycle; and

dispense the diluted additive to the washing machine at the adjusted dispense time by delivering the diluted additive into the annular space.

26. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system for a washing machine in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said conduit extends into the annular space such that the diluted additive is not directly applied to the articles within the basket.